

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CPR-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 /072 W

----- 028895

R 032119Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6339

INFO SEC ARMY

JCS DOD

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3239

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, OVIP, CI

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT BY SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HOWARD H CALLAWAY

REF STATE 084219 DTG 242356Z APR

1. SPEAKING FRANKLY, THERE ARE THREE PROBLEMS TO BE OVERCOME
BEFORE SEC ARMY CALLAWAY CAN VISIT ARGENTINA:

A. VERY DIFFICULT SECURITY SITUATION.

B. STATEMENT OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE ROBLEDO RE: VIP VISITS.
WHILE ROBLEDO (DURING OFFICIAL CALL BY AMB HILL) WELCOMED VIP VISITS
OF US OFFICIALS, HE SAID THERE WAS A SECURITY (READ TERRORIST)
PROBLEM TO BE OVERCOME BEFORE VISIT SHOULD BE MADE. HE OPINED
SECURITY SITUATION SHOULD HAVE IMPROVED BY OCT-NOV 74 TIME FRAME
TO POINT WHERE VISITS WELCOMED/POSSIBLE BUT NOT BEFORE THEN.

C. PERIOD OF 24-27 JULY IS DURING WINTER LEAVE PERIOD, AND
50 PERCENT OF ARMY WILL BE ON VACATION.

2. NOTWITHSTANDING PROBLEMS LISTED ABOVE, DATT/ARMA VISITED
BG VIOLA (ARMY G5 POLITICS AND STRATEGY) MORNING 29 APR TO EXPLORE
POSSIBILITIES OF VISIT. BG VIOLA SAID HE PERSONALLY WELCOMED
VISIT AND THOUGHT PERHAPS SITUATION HAD CHANGED SINCE ROBLEDO'S
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"OCT-NOV 74 TIMEFRAME" STATEMENT MADE 2 MONTHS AGO. VIOLA

PROMISED TO CHECK OUT VISIT WITH ARMY CG ANAYA AND MINDEF ROBLEDO AND WOULD BE BACK TO DATT WITH ANSWER ASAP (NOT RECEIVED TO DATE).

3. DATT EXPLAINED TO BG VIOLA THAT AMB HILL OLD AND DEAR FRIEND OF SEC ARMY CALLAWAY AND WOULD INVITE SEC ARMY CALLAWAY AS PERSONAL GUEST IF INVITATION ARGENTINE ARMY NOT FORTHCOMING. VIOLA VERY HONESTLY REPLIED THAT ARGENTINE ARMY MOST DESIROUS OF HOSTING CALLAWAY VISIT, AND ASKED TIME TO WORK IT OUT. VIOLA SAID HE WAS AFRAID THAT IF CALLAWAY WERE WELL RECEIVED IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL GUEST IN ARGENTINA, THE COMPARISON COULD NOT HELP BUT BE DISADVANTAGEOUS FOR ARGENTINE ARMY -- SOMETHING HE (VIOLA) HOPED TO AVOID. IN OTHER WORDS, VIOLA WAS SUGGESTING VISIT BE FULL BORE OR NOT AT ALL, AND ASKED FOR TIME TOW WORK IT OUT.

4. BARRING UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE FEEL OFFICIAL INVITATION WILL SOON BE FORTHCOMING. WE ASK THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT PROBLEM IS NOT ANY RELUCTANCE ON PART OF ARGENTINE ARMY -- RATHER A THORNY LOCAL SECURITY PROBLEM. WE SHOULD HAVE A FIRM ANSWER EARLY NEXT WEEK.
HILL

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